## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and add claims 11 - 13 as follows:

- 1. (Original) A diagnostic method comprising outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting the frequency band signal to noise, receiving a response of a patient, and diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.
- 2. (Original) A diagnostic method comprising outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response of a patient, and diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a disease is estimated with reference to disease database, based on information corresponding to the output Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal and the response.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;

multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and

accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.

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5. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to <u>claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 3</u>, wherein at least one of a number of the band filtering procedures for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed, at least depending on the language.

- 6. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to <u>claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 3</u>, wherein at least one of a number of the band filtering procedures for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method according to <u>claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 6</u>, comprising a sound signal extracting procedure for extracting only a sound component from a sound signal, wherein the Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal is obtained by converting at least one portion of the extracted sound component to a Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic device for executing the method according to <u>claim 1</u> any one of claims 1 to 7.
- 9. (Original) A program for letting a computer execute: a step of outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting the frequency band signal to noise, a step of receiving a response of a patient, and a step of diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.
- 10. (Original) A program for letting a computer execute: a step of outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, a step of receiving a response of a patient, and a step of diagnosing a disease of the patient based on the response.
- 11. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 2, wherein a disease is estimated with reference to disease database, based on information corresponding to the output Noise Vocoded Speech Sound signal and the response.

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## 12. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 3, wherein

the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;

multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and

accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.

## 13. (New) The diagnostic method according to claim 11, wherein

the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a frequency band signal with a predetermined frequency band from at least one portion of the sound signal by a first band filtering procedure having a plurality band filtering procedures;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency signal by an envelope extracting procedure; generating a frequency band noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band from a noise source signal by a second band filtering procedure having a plurality of band filtering procedures;

multiplying the frequency band signal by the frequency band noise signal in a multiplying procedure; and

accumulating outputs obtained by the multiplying procedure in an adding procedure.